

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 00892 271624Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04

NSC-05 SS-15 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 /060 W

-----271629 066883 /42

O 271545Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4200

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT

UNCLAS KINGSTON 0892

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, JM, US

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER CONDEMNS NEWSWEEK ARTICLE

REFERENCE: KINGSTON 0882

1. JAMAICAN FOREIGN MINISTER P.J. PATTERSON
HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25 AT WHICH
HE CONDEMNED THE ARTICLE ON JAMAICA WHICH APPEARED IN
THE FEBRUARY 28 ISSUE OF NEWSWEEK UNDER THE BYLINE OF
ARNAUD DE BORCHGRAVE. (THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT PRE-
PARED FOR PATTERSON'S USE IS BEING SENT SEPARATELY.)
CHARACTERIZING THE ARTICLE AS "THE MOST VICIOUS,
UNFOUNDED AND INACCURATE REPORTING EVER DONE ON
JAMAICA", PATTERSON SAID IT WAS OBVIOUSLY INTENDED
"TO DISRUPT AND UNDERMINE EXISTING RELATIONSHIPS WITH
OUR TRADITIONAL FRIENDS. THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT
THIS WAS THE GENERAL INTENTION OF THIS ARTICLE,
COMING AT THE TIME IT HAS, THAT IS, ON THE EVE OF MY
VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES FOR CONVERSATIONS WITH THE
SECRETARY OF STATE MR. CYRUS VANCE AND OTHER MEMBERS
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OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION."

2. PATTERSON ASSERTED THAT THE ARTICLE CONTAINS
"17 PALPABLE LIES, INNUMERABLE HALF TRUTHS AND
COUNTLESS PRE-CONCEPTIONS BORN OUT OF ARROGANCE FOR
COUNTRIES LIKE JAMAICA." AFTER ECHOING THE OLD THEME
(ONE HEARD DURING THE VISIT OF PHILIP AGEE) THAT THERE

IS AN EFFORT TO DAMAGE THE JAMAICAN ECONOMY BY DISCOURAGING TOURISM AND INVESTMENT, PATTERSON DEALT SPECIFICALLY WITH THE "17 PALPABLE LIES", OFFERING REFUTATIONS OF ALL.

3. PATTERSON BROUGHT HIS RELATIVELY LENGTHY STATEMENT TO A CONCLUSION BY ACCUSING THE NEWSWEEK ARTICLE OF SMEARING JAMAICA AT A TIME WHEN "FOREIGN MEDIA IN GENERAL WERE BEGINNING TO DISPLAY SOME REGARD FOR ACCURACY IN THE REPORTING ON JAMAICA. IT REFUSES TO ACCEPT THE RECENT MANIFESTATION OF THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE IN THE RE-ELECTION OF THIS GOVERNMENT." PATTERSON REMINDED LISTENERS THAT AS A NON-ALIGNED NATION, JAMAICA SEEKS "FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ALL STATES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF MUTUAL RESPECT FOR SOVEREIGNTY AND NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. WHILE MAINTAINING AND STRENGTHENING OUR TRADITIONAL RELATIONSHIPS, WE ALSO SEEK TO DEVELOP NEW RELATIONSHIPS ON THE BASIS OF MUTUAL BENEFIT AND MUTUAL COOPERATION."

4. THE AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN CALLED TO SEE THE FOREIGN MINISTER TOMORROW (FEBRUARY 28) AT 0930, AND THE NEWSWEEK STORY AND THE JAMAICAN GOVERNMENT'S REACTION WILL BE THE TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION.
DORRANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
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SAS ID: 3340505
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: PFOR, JM, US, (PATTERSON, P J)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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Review Markings:
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